

**REMARKS**

By this amendment, claim 1 is amended. Amended claim 1 reads on the elected invention of Group I. Support for the changes to claim 1 can be found at page 35, line 1 through page 36, line 17 of the specification as originally filed. In response to the restriction requirement set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claim 6 is withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5 are presented for further consideration.

The rejection of claims 1-5 as anticipated by Morita (2003/0051901 and 6,921,865), the rejection of claims 1-5 as anticipated by Tanaka (2005/0174202 and JP 2002-373534), the rejection of claims 1-3 as obvious over Jin in view of Dunard, 2002/0096710 or WO 02/103370, rejection of claims 1-3 as obvious over Thieme, 2003/0036482 in view of Dunard, 2002/0096710 or WO 02/103370, and the rejection of claims 4-5 as obvious over Jin in view of Dunard, 2002/0096710 or WO 02/103370 and further in view of Holcomb, US 6,586,370 are respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the superconducting wire rod includes a sheath layer comprising a niobium titanium (NbTi) superconducting material. Applicants note that while the abstract of Tanaka, US 2005/0174202 mentions a superconducting wire rod having a metal-sheathing material that can be made from an alloy of niobium and titanium, Tanaka fails to teach that the sheathing material is a superconducting material. Because none of the cited references teach a superconducting wire rod including a superconducting sheath layer comprising a niobium titanium (NbTi) material, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

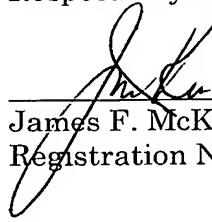
Application No. 10/642,643  
Reply to Final Office Action  
August 21, 2006

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 624-2675 would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056203.52693US).

Respectfully submitted,

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James F. McKeown  
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
JFM/MWR  
*dn#2830377*